

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4, 6, 9-11 and 15-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 11 and 15-17 stand rejected.

In particular, the Examiner rejects claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,447,756 to Lawrence, Jr. in view of U.S. Patent Application 2003/0192955 to Geskin et al. The Examiner rejects claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Lawrence Jr. in view of Geskin et al. and further in view of Kramer et al. U.S. Patent Application 2004/0155125.

The Examiner also rejects claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Lawrence, Jr. in view of Geskin et al. and further in view of Kreitsberg U.S. Patent No. 4,429,339.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the nozzle comprises a housing and an assembly including at least two deformable conjugated parts separated by a spacer seal, the assembly being arranged in the housing so as to form a nozzle outlet, the housing and the parts and the spacer seal being deformable so as to define a geometry of the nozzle outlet and seal surfaces between the parts and the space seal and between the parts and the housing. Further, the parts and the space seal are configured so that an assembly force needed for inserting the assembly into the housing exceeds a force that deforms the housing and assembly and wherein the parts and the housing are deformed by the assembly force when assembled together to create a seal between the housing and the assembly and between the parts and the spacer seal and to provide a desired nozzle outlet geometry.

According to the invention, the housing and the conjugated parts which are separated by the spacer seal, are deformed by an assembly force which exceeds the force that deforms the housing and the assembly. Thus, a seal is created by the assembly force between the parts and the housing and between the parts and the spacer seal. At the same time, the force of deformation provides the desired nozzle outlet geometry.

The Lawrence, Jr. and Geskin references do not teach or suggest the invention. Lawrence does not teach or suggest an assembly wherein the parts and the housing are deformed to create a seal between the parts and the housing. Geskin is completely silent as to a housing. Geskin discusses external forces which deform the plates and the insertion member, see paragraph 31 of Geskin, but there is no teaching or suggestion of creating a seal between a housing which is not shown or described in Geskin and the parts of the nozzle. Accordingly, it is submitted that the claim as now amended to emphasize the sealing by the deformation force between the housing and the assembly as well as between the parts of the assembly and the spacer seal, is not taught or suggested by the references cited in any combination.

Claim 11 has now been placed again into dependent form so it is submitted that claim 11 is now allowable.

In a telephone interview with Examiner Hogan, the Examiner indicated that he believed that the amended claim distinguished over the art of record, subject to further review. The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview.

REJOINDER

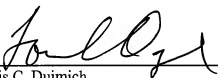
Should the allowability of claim 1 be confirmed by the Examiner after further review of this paper, it is requested that the Examiner rejoin into this application withdrawn dependent claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration and submit that all claims in this application, including the withdrawn claims mentioned immediately above, are now in condition for allowance, prompt notification of which is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Louis C. Dujmich
Registration No.: 30,625
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403
Telephone: (212) 382-0700